

**Northeast RAP Meeting  
April 29, 2015  
Ramkota Inn, Watertown**

**RAP members in attendance (6)**

Dick Pearson  
Rick Smith  
Lee Schull  
Rick Hentges  
Bob Olson  
Bob Tiff

**GFP staff in attendance (5)**

Scott Lindgren  
Jacquie Ermer  
Nick Rossman  
Tony Leif  
Keith Fisk

**RAP members absent (3)**

Neil Bien  
Julie Johnson  
John Johnson

**Public (1)**

Lily Sweikert (SDSU graduate student)

**Scott Lindgren GFP Regional Supervisor**

- Scott Lindgren introduced RAP members and updated panel about Neil Bien and his current health. Scott welcomed everybody for coming and provided brief summary from last meeting in January.

**RAP member reports:**

**Dick Pearson:** Turkey hunting has been good but turkeys seem to be down-seems like success is still good; Fishing has been good; concerned with temporary wetlands drying up- feels that many birds have left his area due to wetlands drying up

**Rick Smith:** Dry weather has affected a lot of things right now- stock dams/wetlands; Hasn't been seeing any ducks on his wetlands due to dryness also very few Canada geese in area- most likely due to low water; Has noticed more wheat going in his area which should help wildlife; Notices that most habitat on landscape is coming from non-farming community (Dick Pearson, Lee Schull, etc...); Fish are biting

**Lee Schull:** Has planted lots of wheat (50:50-wheat/spring); Pond is dried up with no waterfowl right now; Turkeys have moved in on his ground and asked if they have a negative impact on his pheasant population

**Rick Hentges:** Great time to be living in SD; Has no shortage of turkeys in his area-plenty of turkeys scattered all over; Fishing has been really good-MN/SD opener was really great at first but has gotten worse ever since; Witnessed an incredible White-fronted goose migration this spring; Has noticed that water on his property that is fed by springs are plumb full, but runoff ponds are completely dry

**Bob Olson:** Has also noticed much more wheat getting planted in Aberdeen area; Lots of Spring snow goose hunting- also noticed lots of guiding services in the area this year with avg. success; Turned down opportunity to fish Jesse's slough due to access issues

**Bob Tiff:** Deer herded up early but split back up and are doing quite well; Spink Co. fishing is excellent right now; Pleased to hear that some fish release efforts have been done in Spink County lately; Notices sufficient amount of wheat planted in Spink Co. area with some oats as well

## **Presentations:**

### **Tony Leif: NR waterfowl history/future-**

- **Waterfowl Workgroup**
  - Gave background of direction for agency to develop a waterfowl workgroup (legislation)
  - Breakdown of who and why individuals were asked to sit on the workgroup
  - Summary of commission meeting in Brookings
- **NR waterfowl license history**
  - Presented on the history of the waterfowl licenses, license types, and hunting units.
  - 2002- 500 of 2,000 temporary licenses made available by statute in NE SD
  - 2014- HB 1185 passed and moved authority to GFP Commission with up to a 5% increase in licenses
- **Current demand**
  - Provided information on current waterfowl units and number licenses sold/leftovers
- **Workgroup Recommendations**
  - Provided information summarizing the proposal from the waterfowl workgroup
  - Summarized recent commission meeting and the input provided from opposing side at commission mtg.
- **Discussion**
  - Excellent discussion on NR waterfowl allocation recommendations from waterfowl workgroup. Difference of opinions amongst members but all understood the difficulty of a compromise amongst the NR/Resident user groups.

### **Keith Fisk- Canada Geese Depredation Update**

- Provided history of Population Index (USFWS)
- Goose depredation complaint history
- Covered toolbox used by dept. to reduce crop damage
- Explained goose kill permit process

- Explained nest work done on private and public land
- Brief overview of research project on chemical deterrents

### **Lily Sweikert- Land Ethics Attitude survey (2-year project)**

- Profile Survey coming out in 2016 (Jan. & Feb.) to LO's in Midwest
- Currently developing Land Ethics Scale
  - ~53 statements to develop profile which will help develop the next stage of the survey
  - Plan is to survey a certain percentage of landowners in SD that will represent the state using an 80-ac minimum ownership
  - Survey results will help people understand what is important to landowners
  - Draft of survey will be emailed to panel members to fill out and add input

### **September topic potential:**

- Learning about mercury in water (where it comes from/ how, etc.)
- Lyle Perman - Tony's suggested speaker about land practices and impacts for water infiltration systems. (Rick Smith- knows him quite well)
- Land tour potentially at Lindgren Ranch for next RAP meeting
- Mentioned Turkey management plan as well as Canada goose management plan revisions
  - Current versions of both plans can be found on GFP website <http://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife/management/plans/default.aspx>
  - GFP is looking for member from RAP to be part of team to revise Turkey Management Plan.
  - Rick Hentges would like to look at current Turkey plan and Dick Pierson offered to sit on the panel to draft the turkey plan

### **Follow up information to be provided to RAP members:**

- Resident waterfowl hunter numbers in SD- get numbers to RAP members
- Send summary of waterfowl hunter attitude survey to RAP members
- Send Bob Tiff an email with accurate update on fish stocking efforts in Spink Co.